

2. Jan. 2003 17:39

ABPEEE

No. 3685

P. 1/2

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January 2, 2003

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GROUP 1700

Mr. Gregory Webb, Patent Examiner  
US Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

Re: US Patent Application No. 09/822,500  
"OFFSET PRINTING PLATE FOR DIRECT INKJET CTP"  
Our File: 1328

Dear Examiner Webb,

In response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002, I would like to schedule a phone conference with you on the subject application. For this purpose please contact my agent Amy Hunt at (703) 486-1150 to set up an appropriate time. Presented here are the points for discussion:

1. In the Office Action of October 23, 2002, the Examiner has maintained his objection from the previous Office Action of July 23, 2002 that the present invention is unpatentable over the prior art references. The Examiner has stated that the prior art references have met all material limitations and that the preamble of the present claim 1 does not constitute a limitation of the claim when it states an intended use. The Examiner points out that specific intended use does not qualify as a material limitation and that intended use in composition claims must result in structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.

2. From the above, it appears necessary to narrow the scope of claim 1. Attached is a proposed amendment to claim 1, for your review. The preamble has been further qualified and the structural results of the components of the composition have been added. No new matter has been added, as the added phrases are well-supported based on text from pages 13 and 14.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these matters. Sincerely,

Edward Langer, Adv. & Pat. Atty.  
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Proposed New Claim 1:

1. (Once Amended) A pre-treatment liquid ~~for~~ used in preparation of a pre-treated recording medium for use in offset printing plate applications using direct inkjet CTP, said liquid comprising:  
an ion donor for providing mechanical stability of a printing plate image formed by a plurality of inkjet dots and at least one of a polymer swelling reagent and a coalescence reagent for creation of stable dot shape.